



GREETINGS FROM GULF STREAMERS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

We just completed our 2008 Back Home in Indiana Rally in Goshen IN with 141 RVs and 286 members attending. Recaps and pictures are posted on the website, along with First Timers' group picture. The rally questionnaires have been compiled and recap has been mailed to all the members who attended. Many great suggestions were given to us to consider for next year; some include continuing to *assign seating* for our first two dinners. We will ask for people to participate in this program and offer an opt out to any who feel they do not want to have assigned seating. *Assigned parking sites* will be continued and a new fairground layout is posted on the website that is much easier to read and determine where you might want to park. Northwest Campground will be charged at 50AMP price. Deposits will be taken to hold the site on a first come-first paid basis for next year's rally, which will be **June 22-27, 2009**, with early arrival on your own June 20 or June 21, 2009.

A *First Timers' Welcoming Committee* will be in place at next year's BHII Rally with Hazel Riffel of the Texas Freedom Streamers heading up the committee to include volunteers from the Texas Freedom Streamer Chapters and other volunteers who have been to several Back Home in Indiana Rallies in order to offer some direction to First Timers to make them feel welcome.

Our Ladies' Luncheon Charity Auction collected \$1,290.75 that was sent to Vera Bradley Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Any ideas for next year's Ladies' Luncheon activities or charity would be appreciated!

The *Pull Tab Chapter Charity* collections went very well and a check in the amount of \$2012.00 was mailed to the KOA Campgrounds for Kids with Cancer to support the charity. It is never too early to start collecting the tabs for inclusion in next year's donation. If you are not affiliated with a chapter, you can collect and send in to our office, and we will total all the ones not chapter related together and add to the tabs collected. Every pull tab brings us closer to reaching a new goal and more space for the kids! For more highlights on the rally, visit our website and read the recap submitted by Kay Garrett. We hope you mark your calendar for next year and join us in the fun and fellowship!

Congratulations to the winners of our Recipe Contest! Susie Szynalski (Pickled Beef), Rosie Ries (Hamburger Hot Dish), and Rosemary Volpert (Slow Cooked Italian Beef) won for the Main Dish category. Rosemary Volpert (Avocado Cocktail), Shirley Mitchell (Chinese Coleslaw), and Dixie Dawe (Potato Puffs) won for the Side Dishes and Appetizers category. Dixie Dawe (Peanut Butter Pie), Shirley Mitchell (Pineapple Rhubarb Jam), and Virginia Raikes (Fruit Dip—Caramel) won for the Desserts category. First-place winners each received a \$25 gift certificate to *Tastefully Simple*; second-place winners, a \$15 gift certificate to *Tastefully Simple*; and third-place winners, a \$10 gift certificate to *Tastefully Simple*. Watch for these recipes in future *Main Stream* issues, along with other recipes submitted. We appreciate all the participation, but due to the high cost of printing, a recipe book will no longer be offered as one of the benefits of joining the club. We will be happy to include any

recipes in our *Main Stream* magazines that you submit based upon available space.

Winners of the Chapter "Exceptional Service Award." Five Chapters participated in the program. Our winners are Kevin & Cindy Lewis of the KyOhWeVa Chapter, John & Linda Scheuer of the New York Chapter, Bob & Deb Fair of the Michigan Overloaders, Don & Suzanne Palczynski of the Florida Manatees, and Buster & Char Swartz of the Indiana #1 Chapter. Each award couple received a \$150.00 check from Gulf Stream and a plaque to display proudly in their RV. Also recognized for Exceptional Service to the Gulf Stream International Chapter of FMCA was Theodore "Ted" and Helene Ford, who were the President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Chapter for the last five years. Ted & Helene were presented with an Award Certificate, \$100.00 cash, and a Gift Basket.

The Wizard of Oz Contest was a lot of fun. Many of our attendees spent a lot of time putting their costumes together. Their efforts were appreciated and rewarded with a cash prize and recognition on stage! Check out some of the pictures on the website for those who participated. *The Wizard of Oz Yellow Brick Road Contest* was won by Nancy Williams. The answers are posted on the website. I was surprised at some of the answers. I personally have seen the movie many times in my youth and still had to research some of the questions to get the correct answers, and it made me want to watch the movie again, just to see the answers come to life.

The rally would never have been a success without our dedicated staff, Leslie Bloom, Jennifer Shaw, and Les & Jean Potteiger, who spent many additional hours making sure you had a great time. We want to thank our volunteers and the staff (Duane & Neena Durham, Tony & Renee Laws, Mike Cooper, Kaila Capps, Jessica Cooper, Robby Emkow and Rob Huett) hired to assist with all the set up and implementation of the many activities. They put in many, many hours to make sure you had a great time. We don't want to forget our service crew (Brent Lursen, Ryan Johanson, Chad Fulk, Rich Perkins, and Jeff Lehr) who were under units in the rain and sometimes worked until 11:00 P.M. to make sure you had your three free minor service items taken care of. Also, Fabi Hernandez and Sonia Hernandez were there to make sure you were scheduled for your service appointment and to listen to your comments and complaints. We also appreciate the participation and support of the motorized CSRs, Chris Hurd, Pauline Tibbs and Jennifer Hathaway. A special thanks to our towable service representatives, John Smith, Dave Fine and Anita Baker, who were there to support our owners of towable products and were happy to assist them in any way they could.

We also want to thank our Chapter and Member volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to the Club. We hope more of you decide to participate in volunteer positions at next year's rally. It is a great way to meet members, renew friendships and create new and lasting friendships. All members are welcome to volunteer and we hope you continue to volunteer from the "heart." We never want you to feel you are required to volunteer

or that volunteering is a way to get special treatment. Volunteering does, however, help to cut costs at the rally. When we don't have enough volunteers to fill the needed positions, we have to hire outside help, which makes the cost of the rally higher to price out.

For those of you who searched for Angie's (from Penguin Point) diamond that was lost out of her engagement ring in the ECCC building, she wanted you to know that it was found when the fairgrounds cleaned the room. She wanted to thank everyone who helped her look for it and was very grateful it turned up!

Summer Pre-Rally in Duluth MN, July 7-11, was a fun rally with 20 RVs and 41 people attending. The Bowmans had to leave early because their home was broken into; we were sad to see them leave but certainly understand their wanting to get back home to investigate. Carl Acuff, Jr., and his band, The Road Hogs, turned out to be very entertaining, and a lot of our members would like to see them perform at the Back Home in Indiana Rally next year. While in Duluth, we took a lunch cruise on Lake Superior and saw several barges. We toured Glensheen Manor, which is truly beautiful and interesting with the designers and owner's designs and ideas way ahead of their time. We also toured The Depot with time to visit downtown Duluth. If you have never been to Duluth, you would be surprised to see all it has to offer. The view is beautiful and there are a lot of activities that are free. A caravan followed the pre-rally and was led by new officers of the Gulf Stream International Chapter of FMCA (Bob & Kaye Combs, Bill Campbell, Jan Alphonso, and Les Cerise) to St. Paul MN, where they attended their first FMCA Convention as officers. Bob & Kaye were excellent wagonmasters at the pre-rally and their assistance and participation were appreciated by all (especially me)!

To borrow a phrase from a Billy Ocean song "*when the going gets tough, the tough get going*" is to say the least for the Gulf Streamers Club. It has been a tough year for us. Although membership and dealer sponsorship is up, unfortunately rally attendance is not. Due to the low sign up and participation in International Rallies, three rallies have been canceled in 2008. We did have good attendance at Back Home in Indiana, but sales for our dealer were not as good as hoped for and did not justify the cost of the rally that was not covered by charge to the attendees or money brought in by dealer and vendor sponsors. This has caused management to take a close look at the club and ask that we tighten our belts in an effort to stay strong. No International Rallies are being planned until March of 2009. In the future when we offer rallies, we will need to price them out in an effort to break as close to even as possible. We will continually solicit vendors and dealers for their donations and Gulf Stream Coach will sponsor some of the activities, but if we can't meet a minimum sign up, the rally will be canceled.

We have also had to cut back on our staff, which really saddens all of us. Effective July 28, 2008, Leslie Bloom, our Chapter Coordinator and Main Stream Editor, will be placed on an indefinite lay off. We hope times get better and we are able to bring Leslie back. If you would like to send her a note of encouragement, please forward it to our office at P.O. Box 1005, Nappanee, Indiana, 46550, and we will make sure she gets it or e-mail to gulfstreamers@gulfstreamcoach.com. All chapter articles, photo contest information, or anything you would

normally have sent to Leslie should now be sent to the e-mail of gulfstreamers@gulfstreamcoach.com. We are continuing to support our chapter rallies as long as Les & Jean's health allows and we can afford the gas for their motorhome to attend your chapter rallies. If they are not on your schedule to attend a rally in 2008 or 2009, please e-mail Lester at LPotteiger@aol.com so he can check his calendar and see if he and Jean can attend.

Did you know...One of the most generous credit cards for gas purchases is the Pentagon Federal Credit Unit Platinum Gas Cash Rewards Visa. It rewards users with 5% on gas purchases, 2% on groceries, and 1.25% on everything else. (If you are not connected to the military, you can become a credit union member by joining the National Military Family Association for \$20.00 at www.nmfa.org.) Three other cards worth considering: Chase PerfectCard, BP Visa, and Discover Open Road. Many other credit cards offer rebates but you want to check to see if they cap rebates or have other restrictions that won't lessen your pain at the pump in the long run. Many of you know that Flying J has discontinued their discount on gas; however, they still have some of the lowest gas prices around and other discounts inside their store and restaurants, so we will continue to sign our members up for the free Flying J Card.

GoRVing has launched itself into the social media universe, engaging the consumer interactively with a new blog and games on www.GoRVing.com, plus content on popular websites including Facebook® and Yahoo's Instant Messaging®. Visitors to GoRVing.com can now get ideas and inspiration for family vacation or getaway with friends while playing "Hit the Road," an interactive travel game added to the website to give consumers a virtual preview of what they can experience when they hit the road in their Gulf Stream RV. Much more information and game details are described on the website. Take a few minutes and check it out!

Raise money for your favorite charity just by searching the Internet or shopping online with GoodSearch! Visit their website at www.goodsearch.com.

We all love free items and activities . . . so check out free destinations highlighted in *Reader's Digest* and listed at www.rd.com/freeplaces; you can also list the free places you recommend.

A Gallon Costs What???

Some cost comparisons for you to ponder:

- Red Bull energizer drink-\$32/gallon
- Starbucks Frappuccino (bottled)-\$19/gallon
- Starbucks Doubleshot Frappuccino (canned)-\$29/gallon
- Snapple-\$80/gallon
- Propel Fitness Water-\$8/gallon
- Sobe beverages-\$10/gallon
- Dasani flavored water-\$8/gallon

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

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